

SCRIPT OF SENATOR STROM THURMOND FOR HIS REGULAR WEEKLY RADIO  
BROADCAST, RECORDED AUGUST 15, 1957.

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS:

During the past week, hearings have been held by the Aviation Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee/on a bill I introduced to prevent the serving and drinking of alcoholic beverages on airplanes.

It is strange sometimes to see the extent to which people will go/in an effort to continue a dangerous practice, if it is also a practice which brings in money to them. An illustration of this occurred at the hearings.

One of the major airlines paid the expenses of a group of their hostesses/and had them sign a petition in opposition to my bill, S-4. Those girls actually testified that they preferred to work on airplanes on which alcohol is served. Under questioning, it was brought out that some of the airlines give hostesses or stewardesses extra compensation/for serving alcoholic drinks sold on their planes.

The pilots and stewardesses associations, which testified against drinking on airplanes, exhibited courage in doing that/ because they knew their employers preferred for them to remain quiet.

The vice chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board testified against my bill. When I asked him for any good reason why alcohol should be served on airplanes, he was unable to give one. To me this was sufficient evidence/that the profit motive is the main reason any of the airlines want to serve alcohol.

There is no excuse why non-drinkers should be subjected to the



(57-21)

possibility of unpleasantness on an airplane, much less the real dangers which might arise if an intoxicated person interferes, or attempts to interfere, with operation of a plane/or disrupts the crew in performance of its duties.

There is an additional objection to drinking on airplanes/ when children are among the passengers. In such restricted space as that on a plane, it is virtually impossible to prevent children from being in a flying bar, in effect, if alcohol is being served.

Children are prohibited from entering saloons on the ground. I see no reason why they should not be given the same protection in the air.

~~From choice I do not drink alcoholic beverages and,~~ While I believe every person must make his own choice, <sup>about drinking alcoholic beverages</sup> I do not believe he should be permitted to do so/if the lives or comfort of other persons are also involved. That's where the line should be drawn/both by drinkers and non-drinkers.

If the airlines need money so bad they have to serve alcohol to get greater profits, they should find other ways of securing more revenue/or of cutting expenses. Financial profit should not be permitted to endanger or cause discomfort to innocent people.

I have many friends among the airline people, but the public interest and public safety out-weigh any other consideration with me. I hope my bill will be approved.

This session of the Congress has already run longer than was expected/because of the so-called civil rights bill. In view of the fact that Senate debate on that bill took approximately five weeks, it is understandable that the session has run longer than usual.



As of now it is still impossible to predict when the session will end/because what the House of Representatives will do with the bill is still in doubt. There is no indication yet what will be done with the bill, since the House did not immediately agree to the Senate amendments.

Possibly some agreement will be worked out among House leaders/which would be acceptable to a majority of the Senate. On the other hand, it is entirely possible that no agreement can be reached/and the result is likely to be a long stalemate.

In addition to the so-called civil rights bill, we still face the problem of the foreign aid appropriations bill. The President has stated he might call a special session of Congress/if he does not consider the appropriations for foreign aid sufficient to meet the needs/as he visualizes them.

So, with these two bills pending, one person's guess is as good as another's/when it comes to predicting the date of adjournment of the Congress. (Some members are optimistic and predict that everything will soon be worked out, but others still believe the session could run much longer.

Since I always like to get back with the home-folks, I hope adjournment is not too far away.)

This is Strom Thurmond in Washington. Thank you for listening and this station for making this time available each week.

-END-